

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

The PTOL-326 form of the Office Action of January 15, 2004 states that claims 4-6, 13-19, and 25-77 are pending in this application. Applicants note that claims 8-10 are also pending in addition to those claims specified on the PTOL-326 form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4-6, 8-10, 13-19, and 25-77 are currently pending. Claims 25, 38, 55 and 56 are independent.

Of these pending claims, claims 4-6, 13-15, 57, 59, 60, 66, 76, and 77 have been allowed. Moreover, the Examiner has objected to claims 8-10, 19, 26-27, 29, 33-35, 37, 39-40, 42, for being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all claim elements of intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claims 4-6, 8-10, 13-19, 26, 59-63, 65-66, 68-77 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 25, 27, 34, 38, 39-40, 53-57 and 67 are herein amended. In particular, claim 25 is amended to further recite the elements of allowed claim 4. Each of claims 27, 39 and 40 is amended in independent form including all the elements of intervening claims. New claims 78-90 are added. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 53 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action states that claims 53 and 54 "have no proper

antecedent for 'said plurality of image forming elements.'" In response, Applicants have amended claims 53 and 54 to recite, inter alia, "said apparatus comprises a plurality of image forming elements."

Claims 61-63 and 65 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2.

Claims 61-63 and 65 are cancelled herein rendering the rejection directed to these claims moot.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 53, 54, 61-63, and 65 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2.

Objection for Double Patenting

The Examiner has objected to claim 67 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 for allegedly being a substantial duplicate of claim 64.

In response, claim 67 has been amended to recite "an illumination system according to claim 27."

Applicants respectfully request this objection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

In paragraph five (5) of the Office Action, claims 16-17, 25, 28, 30-31, 38, 41, 43-44, 51-53, 55-56, 64, 67, and 75 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,183,094 to Ohta ("Ohta").

In paragraph six (6) of the Office Action, claims 16, 18, 25, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 43 and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,552,760 to Gotoh et al. ("Gotoh").

In paragraph seven (7) of the office action, claims 68, 70 and 72 have been rejected under

35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,062,695 to Kakuda et al. (“Kakuda”).

Among the rejected claims, claims 16, 17, 18, 68, 70, 72 and 75 have been cancelled by this Amendment rendering the rejections directed to these claims moot.

As indicated above, rejected claim 25 has been amended to further recite the elements from allowed claim 4. For example, claim 25 as amended recites “wherein said distribution is varied by switching the relationship of the number of overlapping light beams in a central portion of said illuminated surface and the number of overlapping light beams in a peripheral portion of said illuminated surface between different and the same.”

Accordingly, claim 25 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Claims 28, 30-32, 34, 36, 51-53, 55-56 depend from claim 25 as amended, either directly or indirectly, and thus, claims 28, 30-32, 34, 36, 51-53, 55-56 are also believed to be allowable for at least the same reason for claim 25.

One of the aspects of the invention as featured in claim 38 recites that an illuminated surface is illuminated with a plurality of light beams from the plurality of secondary light sources, and projection magnifications of a part or all of said plurality of light beams to the illuminated surface are changed, thereby varying an illumination distribution in an effective region of the illuminated surface.

Applicants have reviewed Ohta, Gotoh and Kakuda, and understand that these references disclose a method to decrease the light amount of illuminated light outside the effective region of a liquid crystal panel. However, Applicants believe that none of the cited references shows or

suggests the feature of claim 38 as discussed above.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that claim 38 is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the cited references (i.e., Ohta, Gotoh and Kakuda), either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claims 41, 43-45 and 64 depend from claim 38 as amended, either directly or indirectly, and thus, claims 41 and 43-45 are also believed to be allowable for at least the similar reasons as discussed in claim 38.

Claim 67 is amended to depend from claim 27 which also has been amended in independent form to overcome the objection as indicated above. Accordingly, claim 67 is believed to be allowable for at least this reason.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully requested.

Applicants have not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicants submit that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicants however reserve the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Claims 78-90 have been added to recite the claimed invention in an alternative manner. Specifically, new claims 78-87 depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of the allowable claims as discussed above.

New claims 88-90 recite that:

“wherein said at least one image forming element is illuminated by using a plurality of light beam from a light source, and projection magnifications of a part or all of said plurality of light beams to said at least one image forming element are changed, whereby, in a case that images

formed by said at least one image forming element concentrate at a central part rather than a peripheral part of the effective region, an image display apparatus controls a brightness of the central part to be brighter than that of a peripheral part, or in a case that images formed by said at least one image forming element are dispersed at a central part and a peripheral part, an image display apparatus controls a brightness of the central part to be substantially equal to that of a peripheral part of the effective region.”

Applicants believe that none of the cited references (i.e., Ohta, Gotoh and Kakuda), taken either alone or in combination, shows or suggests this aspect of the invention, and accordingly, claims 88-90 are also believed to be allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe that the application including the added claim is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

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Reply to office action of January 15, 2004

Docket No. 1232-4722

AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4722). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

Respectfully submitted,
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